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1. At a session on 30 November 1954, the Politburo of the SED specifically concerned itself with the 1955 plans for production and profits in that East German industrial sector for which the Ministry for Machine Construction is responsible. The present plans of this Ministry for 1955, if carried out as provided, make it imperative to release a considerable number of workers during 1955. It was pointed out in this session of the Politburo that the workers to be released could probably not be absorbed by other industrial branches and the majority of them also could not be incorporated into the Volkspolizei because of being over age. The Politburo therefore decided to request the Ministry for Machine Construction to reconsider its plans. Specifically, the Ministry for Machine Construction was requested to forward within two weeks, to the Politburo, an analysis of the situation in which three different versions were submitted as possible solutions. The Politburo will then decide which version is to be applied.
2. The three versions prescribed by the Politburo are as follows:
  - a. The "hard plan": this version leaves unaltered the present 1955 plans concerning the machine construction industry. It includes as a means of solution the release in 1955 of a total of 70,000 workers including 20,000 workers directly engaged in machine construction, the remainder being apprentices, auxiliary workers, etc.
  - b. The "medium plan": the 1955 plans remain also unaltered but only a total of 34,000 workers are to be released in 1955. This number will include 10,000 apprentices who normally leave the machine construction sector in order to take jobs in other branches, for instance the railroad services, agricultural machine and tractor stations, and heavy industry. In addition, it will include those workers and employees who leave the machine construction sector as a result of normal "fluctuation". They are not to be released in 1955. This plan, as does the "hard plan", makes it necessary to increase the work norms considerably or to extend the production period. Since the volume of production is more or less constant, the release of workers must be compensated by an increase in production.

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